

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 230

Washington, D. C.

October 15, 1927

CONTENTS

| | Page | | Page |
|---|------|--|------|
| Census issues report on pea pack | 725 | British report on occurrence of glass in canned foods | 726 |
| Date of Board meeting changed | 725 | Plan appeal of drawback decision ... | 727 |
| Oral argument on rates from Wisconsin to East | 725 | Bulletin issued on the codling moth .. | 727 |
| Distribution census of Springfield and Atlanta | 726 | California returns from asparagus crop | 728 |
| Fall commercial truck crop estimates | 726 | Bulletin on raspberry plantation man- agement in Michigan | 728 |
| | | Retail trade in September | 728 |

Census Issues Report on Pea Pack

The pea pack in 1927, according to an announcement by the Census Bureau on October 14, amounted to 12,936,017 cases of No. 2 cans. The actual number of cases packed was 12,609,577, of which 783,572 cases were of No. 1 cans (48 to the case), 10,739,161 cases were of No. 2 cans (24 to the case), 935,433 cases were of No. 10 cans (6 to the case), 24,072 cases were of glass jars (12 to the case), and 127,339 cases were of cans of special sizes (Jitney, Picnic, 1/4 Kilo, 11-oz., 16-oz., No. 1 Tall, No. 1 1/2, and No. 5).

The Census figures were released at 10 o'clock Friday morning, and at the request of the National Canners Association the Census Bureau telegraphed them to the officers of state canners associations so that pea canners might have the earliest possible direct information. With this week's Information Letter is mailed a leaflet giving the figures for the last twenty years.

Date of Board Meeting Changed

To avoid conflict with the meeting of the Western Canners Association, which will be held on November 28 and 29 in Chicago, President Cannon has announced that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Canners Association will be held on December 1 and 2, instead of November 30 and December 1 as stated in last week's Information Letter. Formal announcement of the meeting will be sent to the members of the Board about November 1st.

Oral Argument on Rates from Wisconsin to East

The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced that oral argument on the case (Docket 17906) involving the rates on

canned foods in carloads from producing points in Wisconsin to points in New York, New Jersey, and New England, will be held before Division 3 of the Commission at 10:00 o'clock November 21. The complaint in this case was originally filed on behalf of the National Cannery Association, the Evaporated Milk Association, and the Wisconsin Cannery Association. Since that time the National Cannery Association, at the direction of the Board of Directors, has withdrawn from the case, although the case appears under the original title in the records of the Commission.

Distribution Census of Springfield and Atlanta

The Census Bureau has issued its report on the census of distribution in Springfield, Illinois. The results of this census are similar to those in other studies already reported, where it was found that the largest annual sales were those made by wholesale and retail grocery and delicatessen establishments.

In the Atlanta census, it was found that the largest annual sales were made by wholesale cotton and cotton yarn establishments. Next to these were the sales of wholesale and retail grocery and delicatessen stores, of which 63 were engaged principally in wholesale business while 1,314 were retail establishments.

Fall Commercial Truck Crop Estimates

The acreage for fall crop beans this year is 15,210 acres, as compared with 15,080 last year, according to estimates of the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. In fall crop spinach there are 7,070 acres as compared with 7,220 last year. Production of pimiento peppers in Georgia is forecast at 7,860 tons, compared with 2,950 tons in 1926, and it is estimated that 98.7 per cent of the production will be used for canning. A preliminary estimate for California places the acreage of pimiento peppers for canning at 4,125, as compared with 3,890 acres in 1926.

British Report on Occurrence of Glass in Canned Foods

A report on the occurrence of glass fragments in foods packed in glass containers has been issued by the British Ministry of Health, in which the author, George C. Hancock, C. B. E., M. R. C. S., states as his conclusions on the subject:

"Having regard to the considerations set out in this report, I do not think that any real objection can be taken to the use of glass containers as receptacles for food. Glass packed foods of one or other sort, as has been mentioned, are eaten by

the million daily, while glass particles of appreciable size are but seldom found in them. When present, the glass is usually in powdered or microscopic form and there is little, if any, evidence to show that in this form it is capable of exerting any injurious effect when swallowed with the food. It would, however, be unwise to accept such negative evidence as wholly conclusive, for glass, in whatever form, is manifestly an undesirable ingredient in foods. It has been shown that food manufacturers are for the most part well aware of the need for using good glassware and for avoiding contamination with glass of the contents of a vessel during the various operations to which it is subjected in the factory; and it is doubtless largely due to these measures that the larger particles of glass, derived from the bursting and breakages which are inevitable in such factories, are so seldom met with in food.

"The need of using good glassware and of exercising proper care in the food factory can not, therefore, be too strongly insisted upon, and provided manufacturers recognize these essentials little danger need be apprehended from glass packed foods."

Plan Appeal of Drawback Decision

The decision (T. D. 42384) of the United States Customs Court finding that the Secretary of the Treasury has no authority to limit the time for filing drawback claims to a three-year period, will be appealed, it is reported, to the U. S. Customs Court of Appeals in Washington. The three-year time limit was fixed by an amendment to the customs regulations in March, 1926, and the right of the Treasury Department to adopt and enforce such a limit was the point at issue in this case.

Bulletins Issued on the Codling Moth

"Codling Moth in the Grand Valley of Colorado" is the title of Bulletin 322 issued by the Colorado Experiment Station at Fort Collins. This report is based on studies which were begun in 1914 and were continued until 1927. The bulletin presents not only a summary of the history and habits of the moth, but also a discussion of methods for control.

For the past two years the codling moth has done serious damage to the apple crop in Missouri, it is reported in Bulletin 250 of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Columbia, which furnishes information with respect to methods of controlling this epidemic of apple worms. The bulletin explains that the unusual damage is due to favorable natural conditions, abnormal

life cycle of the pest and lack of spray coverage at the times needed. Emphasis is placed on the proper timing of the different applications of spray, and on the thoroughness with which they are made. An increase in the amount of arsenic is recommended in the cover spray for the first brood of worms. There is also a brief discussion of orchard dusting.

California Returns from Asparagus Crop

In an interesting article in the Monthly Bulletin of the California Department of Agriculture on how fresh asparagus goes to market, the statement is made that in 1926, for the first time in several years, shipments of fresh asparagus brought a greater total income than the portion of the crop used for canning purposes in the state. The returns from fresh shipments were \$4,733,000, compared with \$3,520,000 for canning asparagus.

Bulletin on Raspberry Plantation Management in Michigan

A report on an investigation conducted by the Agricultural Experiment Station at East Lansing, Michigan, on management of raspberry plantations has been published by the Station as Special Bulletin No. 165. The investigation was begun in 1925 and involved a detailed study of 28 plantations. It was found that profits in the raspberry business depended primarily on the yield per acre; that the yields are fairly closely correlated with planting distance, time of planting, and number of canes to the hill; that location or site is the most important single factor in determining yield, and that fertility of soil largely determines the amount of cane growth, which in turn largely determines yield. The crown gall and diseases of the mosaic type are important factors in influencing yield and determining the commercial longevity of the plants, and control of these lies principally in preventive sanitary measures.

Retail Trade in September

Sales of 551 department stores reporting to the Federal reserve system were in about the same volume in September as a year ago. Sales of two mail order houses averaged 8 per cent larger than in September of 1926 and those of eight five-and-ten-cent stores were about 11 per cent larger. Of the total number of stores (551) reporting for the country as a whole, 250 showed larger sales and 301 showed smaller sales than a year ago.